

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. Friedrich Hubener, Minister-President of Saxony-Anhalt, expressed his firm belief that the Volkskongress was not an instrument of the SED or the SMA and would not develop into a national assembly or a unity party. In contrast to his original contention that further maintenance of the Volkskongress would be pointless, he now lends the movement his full support.
2. In order to counterbalance the Economic Council of the western zones, Minister-President Hubener advocates that the Economic Commission be given parliamentary form and established as the government of the Russian Zone. He presented this idea to Marshal Sokolovsky and the SED minister-presidents, but it was generally rejected. He was informed that one cannot support in the east what one attacks in the west. At the time of the Leipzig Fair Hubener had an opportunity to speak with several members of the Frankfurt Economic Council, none of whom expressed themselves favorably in regard to it. It is his impression that the western powers, formerly in a relatively favorable position, have been forced politically to assume the defensive. He refused to discuss the Marshall Plan, maintaining that it was of no significance to him or to his policies.
3. Hubener thinks that the sequestrations now occurring in Saxony-Anhalt constitute the final steps in the denazification program and affect those factories which escaped earlier expropriation by disguising or concealing the actual facts. He proposed to the SMA that each case receive individual examination, but was refused on the ground that this procedure would prove to be too time-consuming. He accepts the logic of the argument and is resigned to injustices which will result from the system now in force.
4. Hubener was extremely stirred by recent events in Prague, but, in view of the coming presidential elections, does not believe that the American Government under Truman would declare war on this account. In fact, the Russians are using pre-election tensions in the United States to their own advantage and will probably shift their aims after November 1948. Hubener thinks that most Americans would favor a war in defense of Vienna or Berlin even if there were no victories at the outset. The Soviet Union will not shut off supply lines to Berlin in order to gain full control of the city; at the moment, it is more important to her to maintain the good will of the population.

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